

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 02132 211538Z

41

ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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CEA-01 FRB-01 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-01 SIL-01 OES-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 2132

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EEWT, BU, PFOR

SUBJECT: CALL ON OGNAN DOYNOV, PROFESSOR POPOV'S SUCCESSOR

1. CALLED ON DEPUTY PREMIER OGNAN DOYNOV NOVEMBER 21 TO ESTABLISH WORKING RELATIONSHIP SIMILAR TO THAT WITH HIS PREDECESSOR, PROFESSOR IVAN POPOV. IT IS GENERAL UNDERSTANDING HERE THAT DOYNOV, WHO HAS NO PREVIOUS CABINET EXPERIENCE, IS WORKING VERY MUCH UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF POPOV. (AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF STATE, POPOV IS THEORETICALLY TO DEAL ONLY WITH BROAD POLICY MATTERS BUT ACTUALLY, WE ARE TOLD, TAKES A DIRECT AND CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS SUCCESSOR.) DOYNOV IMPRESSED ME AS SIMILARLY DIRECT AND MATTER-OF-FACT, AND HE SPOKE IN SAME TERMS AS POPOV ABOUT DESIRABILITY AND POTENTIALITIES OF EXPANDING ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE US.

2. REPORTING SEPTTEL ON PROJECT INVOLVING PLANT FOR VALVES AND PIPE FITTINGS WHICH DOYNOV APPARENTLY WOULD LIKE TO SEE AWARDED TO A US FIRM.

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PAGE 02 SOFIA 02132 211538Z

3. DOYNOV SPOKE WARMLY OF THE WASHINGTON VISIT OF

POPOV AND COMPANY IN WHICH HE HAD PARTICIPATED, AND LISTENED WITH INTEREST TO SUMMARY OF CURRENT STATUS OF TRADE LEGISLATION. I ALSO TOLD HIM THAT WHILE WE RECOGNIZE MFN IS IMPORTANT, HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY HOW MUCH TRADE BETWEEN US AND USSR HAS DEVELOPED EVEN IN ABSENCE OF MFN. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT BULGARIA HAS SOME CATCHING-UP TO DO HE SAID ITS POSSIBILITIES ARE NATURALLY MORE LIMITED THAN THOSE OF USSR IN MATTER OF IMPORTS IN ABSENCE OF OUTLETS FOR EXPORTS.

4. TOOK OCCASION TO SUGGEST DOYNOV KEEP AN EYE ON HOW DIVIDED FAMILIES PROBLEM IS HANDLED BY RELEVANT GOB AGENCIES SINCE THAT PROBLEM COULD HAVE IMPACT ON TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID THE PROBLEM IS OF NO IMPORTANCE. "HOW COULD 50 BULGARIANS STAND IN THE WAY OF DEVELOPING RELATIONS BETWEEN 8-1/2 MILLION BULGARIANS AND 210 MILLION AMERICANS?" SINCE THIS COULD BE TAKEN TO MEAN THAT WE, RATHER THAN THEY, SHOULD NOT ALLOW IT TO STAND IN THE WAY, I CAUTIONED THAT IF MISHANDLED IT COULD VERY WELL STAND IN THE WAY, WHICH WOULD BE A PITY.

5. DOYNOV ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF EXCHANGE OF TECHNICIANS AND SCIENTISTS. I SAID WE VIEW THIS AS PART OF LARGER TASK OF DEVELOPING CROSS-CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING WHICH REQUIRES EXCHANGES ALSO IN OTHER CATEGORIES. HE EXPRESSED AGREEMENT. DOYNOV ALSO SAID "WE WILL BE SENDING THRACIAN ART EXHIBIT TO THE US" WHICH SHOULD HELP IN IMPROVING AMERICAN POPULAR AWARENESS OF BULGARIA.

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